

Assembly elected in 1751, with a speech in which he expressed his appreciation of the confidence shown him in thus entrusting him with the expenditure of the money that had been appropriated, but regretted that they had not followed his other recommendations, doubtless a reference to the fact that nothing had been done toward recruiting a militia. He then declared the Assembly prorogued until the last Tuesday of the following November. But the same body was not destined to meet again. Doubtless in the hope of obtaining one more amenable to his wishes, Sharpe who had gone to Virginia immediately after the adjournment of the Assembly, wrote from there to the Council suggesting the advisability of dissolving the present Assembly and calling together a new one. The Council accordingly, at a meeting held on October 30th, directed that writs for a new election be issued.

The new Assembly met December 12th and was soon to show that it was fully as stubborn as its predecessor. The Lower House organized by electing Henry Hooper of Dorchester County, a prominent member of the County party, as their speaker; selected their clerk, serjeant-at-arms, doorkeeper, and chaplain, and adopted the form of oath which each should take; appointed the members of the various standing committees, and adopted rules for their own government. A few new names are to be found in the Lower House but the great majority of members had served in the last Assembly and the committee assignments were much the same.

The Governor's opening speech, calling attention to the further encroachments of the French and the extension of their chain of garrisons, and urging speedy and vigorous measures, was of a similar tenor to his former addresses. But he had further news to report which he doubtless believed would appeal to their pride and stimulate them to further action. He transmitted to both houses the commission from George II, dated Kensington, July 25, 1754, appointing him Lieutenant-Colonel of Foot of the West Indies, and a letter from Sir Thomas Robinson, one of his Majesty's Secretaries of State, ordering him to assume command of the combined British forces in America assembled to oppose the hostile attempts of the French, and directing him to act in concert with Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia to whom further instructions and a considerable sum of money had been sent. Sharpe also presented to the Assembly, instructions from the Lord Proprietary directing him to observe diligently all orders implied in His Majesty's commission, assuring him that any absence from the Province on this service should in no wise invalidate his commission as Lieutenant-Governor, and notifying him that during his absence the powers of government should be exercised by the President of the Council. He further directed the Governor that he should "in the most Serious & earnest manner recommend it to the Good People of my said Province that